

**UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST  
FOR  
PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS  
OF THE  
CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION  
  
REGARDING THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE  
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 2**

**Summary of Existing Laws**

California Building Standards Law (Health and Safety Code Section 18900 – 18949.6) establishes the California Building Standards Commission to oversee the adoption and publications of building standards for state regulated occupancies in California. Further, existing law requires any state agency that proposes and/or adopts a building standard to submit the building standard to the Commission for approval and publication in the California Building Standards Code. Specifically pertaining to this regulatory action, Health and Safety Code section 18934.5, authorizes the Commission to adopt building standards providing the minimum standards for the design and construction of state-owned buildings, buildings constructed by the Regents of the University of California to the extent permitted by law, and buildings constructed by the Chancellors of the State University, where no other state agency has the authority.

**Summary of Existing Regulations**

Existing regulations pertaining to this regulatory action are contained in the 2001 California Building Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2), which is based upon the 1997 Uniform Building Code of the International Conference of Building Officials. The regulations being modified by this action are contained in Chapters 16, 17, 19, 22, and 23. Chapter 16 contains the structural design requirements; Chapter 17 contains structural testing and inspection requirements; Chapter 19 contains the concrete standards; Chapter 22 contains the steel construction standards; and, Chapter 23 contains the wood construction standards.

**Summary of Effect**

This regulatory action makes some of the more critically needed updates to California standards. These update are currently accepted, nationally recognized standards and engineering principles, which have been determined to be lacking in the California Building Code.

This enactment of these standards is no different than adoption of a new cycle of codes. These standards are not different from what most states enforce in the United States. This is an improvement in standards that will provide greater structural safety in active seismic regions. These will apply only to state-owned buildings, buildings constructed by the Regents of the University of California to the extent permitted by law, and buildings constructed by the Chancellors of the State University.

**Comparable Federal Statute or Regulations**

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency standards.

NEHRP – National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program standards

**Small Business Affect**

This regulatory action may or may not have an affect on small businesses, as the standards contained in building codes offer designers and owners optional construction techniques and materials. Also the size and design of a building has a bearing upon the affect, which is controlled by the designer and owner.